BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: Marcella Queypo Amoroso

"Oh, I getting tired [of working for others] already, so I told my husband, 'More better buy our own business already.' So we do or no do, just the same. It's our own. Nobody, no more luna already, I told him. So, he work plantation; I work inside the billiard parlor. But ten cents a game. (Laughs) Ten cents a game."

The third of four girls, Marcella Queypo Amoroso was born October 10, 1910 in Bacarra, Ilocos Norte, Philippines. Her parents, Hilario and Lucia Queypo, were rice farmers who farmed mainly for home use. Marcella was able to complete the second grade in school before quitting to help her parents.

In 1930, at the age of nineteen, Marcella immigrated to Hawai'i along with her sister and sister's husband. Upon reaching Kōloa, Marcella took in laundry from bachelors and was paid $1.25 a month by each bachelor. She soon met Vicente Amoroso, a laborer for Kōloa Plantation. They were married in 1932 and lived in New Mill Camp.

Marcella worked in the Kaua'i Pineapple Company cannery in Lāwai during summers and, after World War II broke out, worked in the bakery owned by Chang Fook. After the war, she worked in a tuna factory in Nāwiliwili for two years. After the factory closed, Marcella in 1950 found work as a chambermaid for Coco Palms Hotel.

In 1952, Marcella took over the lease of a pool hall in Kōloa town and purchased four pool tables from the previous owner for $2,200. She and her husband ran the pool hall until 1978.

Now both retired, Marcella and Vicente live in Kōloa, not far from the pool hall. They raised five children.

Tape No. 15-39-1-87

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Marcella Queypo Amoroso (MA)

June 3, 1987

Kōloa, Kaua'i

BY: Chris Planas (CP) and Warren Nishimoto (WN)

WN: [This is an] interview with Mrs. Marcella Amoroso on June 3, 1987 at her home in Kōloa. The interviewers are Chris Planas and Warren Nishimoto.

CP: I guess the best place to start is just to ask you when was your birth date?

MA: My birthday is October 10, 1910.

CP: And where were you born?

MA: I was born in the Philippines.

CP: Whereabouts in the Philippines exactly?

MA: I was born in Bacarra, Ilocos Norte, Philippine Islands.

CP: And did you come from a big family?

MA: No, a small family. We got only four sisters. No more brothers.

CP: And how old were you? Were you oldest one or youngest one?

MA: I am the number three for my family.

CP: Second to the youngest?

MA: Number three to the---ah, yeah, yeah. Second to the youngest.

CP: And what did your father and mother do there?

MA: My father is a farmer. They cultivate the land and they plant some rice and vegetables.

CP: And your mother?

MA: My mother helping, too.

CP: Did you live in a place where mostly other people were farmers, too?

MA: Kind of far, maybe about five miles away from the other guy's farm.

CP: So, actually, you lived kind of by yourself, yeah? Not too many close neighbors?

MA: We get plenty neighbors, too.

CP: You had plenty neighbors, too?

MA: Yeah.

CP: All farmers, too?

MA: No, some, not farmer.

CP: You remember what kind of home that you had? What kind of house? Was it a big house?

MA: We got the bamboo house. And the roof is, what they call now, straw. We are a poor family so we cannot build a good house for my family.

CP: Your father built that house?

MA: Yes.

CP: Did other families around there have house like that, too? Bamboo house?

MA: Yes.

CP: Do you remember what you did growing up? Were you able to go to school?

MA: Oh, I went to school but only [until] second grade, I was. Because I cannot go school. We was so poor. So my mother and my father cannot give me education.

CP: Did your sisters go? Any of your sisters go to school?

MA: No, my oldest sisters, they never go. But my youngest sister, she went about third grade, I think.

CP: So you went to school for only second grade?

MA: Yeah, second grade.

CP: And then after that, you just stayed home or you helped out . . .

MA: No, I helped my father. And sometime I go take care the carabao. Give all the food for the carabao. And when we finish all the jobs,

then we go home.

CP: Did you have very many animals? Livestock?

MA: No, only two, only for cultivate the land.

CP: Two carabao. Any chickens or . . .

MA: We got chicken, too. We got goat, too.

CP: What kind of vegetables did your father grow? Do you remember?

MA: Oh, we get the mungo beans, we got the okra, we get the patola [a.k.a. kabatiti]. All mix up, the one we plant for make our living.

CP: And then, after he harvest, he . . .

MA: We keep 'em and we use for ourselves. We no sell.

CP: You don't sell?

MA: No, no, no. Just enough for one year, the one we can do the job during the summertime.

CP: So, actually, you just farm for yourself, yeah? Just to support your own family?

MA: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

CP: And everybody around there is same?

MA: Same, yes.

WN: You said that you used to help your father take care of the carabao. What did you do? What did you have to do?

MA: I have to hold the rope. And then, sometime I tie it on the---I got the nail for put the rope on the ground so the carabao no go away. So, when my father need the carabao, he took, and then he used for cultivate the land.

WN: You used the carabao for plowing?

MA: Yeah, for plowing.

WN: Anything else?

MA: That's all. Yeah, that's all. We go on the carabao. We (rode) on the carabao when we go home time.

CP: Where did he get them from? Did he have to buy them? He had to buy the carabao?

MA: Yeah, he used to get from somebody, the carabao.

CP: Was he a farmer all his life? Like, was your grandfather a farmer, too?

MA: Yeah. Yes, yes.

CP: The same area?

MA: Yeah. Same place.

CP: And your mother was from the same area, too?

MA: Yes.

CP: So, your family, then, is from that region for long time, yeah?

MA: Yeah. I was born there and raised.

(Taping interrupted, then resumes.)

CP: You stayed there in Ilocos Norte until how old? How old were you?

MA: Until nineteen years old. And then, I came to Hawai'i.

CP: And all that time, you just stayed in the farm and helped out?

MA: Yes.

CP: How did you hear about Hawai'i?

MA: No, people always talk about Hawai'i's good. So long you work, you got money. Everybody said that, so when my sister wanted to come, I did follow them, too. Husband and wife.

CP: Oh, your sister was married?

MA: Yes.

CP: And she came with her husband to Hawai'i?

MA: Yeah. And I came with them.

CP: Your sister married someone from that place, too . . .

MA: From same place. Same place, yeah.

CP: What were your parents' names?

MA: Oh, Hilario Queypo. And Lucia Galasinao, my mother.

CP: Oh, I see. When you came, when you decided to come, how did your parents feel about that?

MA: Oh, they feel sorry, but cannot help. We are poor, so they (told) me, "Well, you go, if you can earn something, and then you can send us for our living."

CP: What was it that made you want to come? Why did you want to come?

MA: I wanted to come and find a good living in Hawai'i.

CP: You thought life was too hard in the Philippines?

MA: Yeah.

WN: You know, besides helping your father in the fields, like besides the carabao, what else did you do to help your father?

MA: Well, we carry all the rice, put on the carabao, and then we bring 'em home. And then when we stay home, we used to pound the rice and use for our living.

WN: You used to do it?

MA: Yes. We used to pound rice. Kinda hard life we get, in the Philippine Islands.

WN: Did you put it in the sacks, too?

MA: We put in a big jar. When we pound the rice, we keep all inside of there. But when we take from the field, we have to bundle up and then put on the carabao. Hang up on the carabao. Then when we reach home, then we going pound for use our living.

CP: The vegetables, too, you have to bring the vegetables in from the fields, too?

MA: Yeah.

CP: You bring them home on the carabao, also?

MA: On the carabao, yes.

CP: And then, what did you do with the vegetables to keep them from . . .

MA: No, the vegetable, it's already dry already when we bring 'em home. We took out the shell, the skin. And then, after we take out the shell, we dry 'em in the sun. We dry about so how many days, and then we keep 'em inside the bag. Well, we use for our living.

CP: Did you eat meat at all?

MA: Yeah, we eat meat.

CP: Chicken. . . .

MA: Chicken, pork.

CP: Pork? Did you have pigs?

MA: Yeah, we get pig, too.

CP: How did you store meat? Did you . . .

MA: Oh, the meat? They used to kill one time and everybody will buy. No more icebox in the Philippine Islands. So only the one you just enough to eat, so how many is the one you buy. We used to salt the meat so come little bit last long. If not, you dry on the sun, so that when comes cold . . .

CP: Make it last a little longer?

MA: Yes. Last more long.

WN: What about household---you know, did you help your mother at all?

MA: Yeah, we help my mother. Sometime we weave our clothes. You know the cotton? We make into thread. And then, when we finish for threading the cotton, we weave for make our clothes. We use for the blanket, and we use for the pants and the shirt.

CP: What did you make it out of?

MA: We get the machine for make. Some kind of wood, but just like a machine, but not machine. The people, the one who made that, I don't know how they make because when you put the thread on the wood, just like automatic for you to put all the thread. You make all the towels, too.

CP: What kind of cloth did you use?

MA: Cotton.

CP: And where did this come from?

MA: We plant the cotton. And then, we. . . . I don't know how to explain that. We make into thread.

CP: So, you made your clothes from. . . . You grew the cotton and you made your clothes out of the cotton.

MA: Yes, yes.

CP: When you were living there, your house, bamboo, yeah?

MA: Bamboo.

CP: Did you have to constantly repair your house? Did your house last for a long time or did you have to keep repairing it and

reroofing . . .

MA: Yeah, long time, we use. About twenty years, I think, last, the house.

CP: You had to redo the roof every so often?

MA: Well, when the roof is leaking, then we change again. It was only grass, the roof of the house.

CP: Where did you get the grass from?

MA: From the mountain.

CP: From the mountain?

MA: Yes. They get some kind of grass for only use for the roof for the houses.

CP: I guess all the children have to help? Help in that?

MA: Yes, yes. Have to help, yeah.

CP: Did you have to go to the mountain and bring back the grass yourself?

MA: (No.) My father is the one who go. They get the bunch of men, they go help each other. Then everybody do it.

CP: You killed animals one time and everybody share, yeah?

MA: Yeah.

CP: Was the same thing with the vegetables that you grew, also?

MA: No, no. The vegetables, you can keep kind of . . .

CP: You eat your own?

MA: Yeah. You can keep more long. That one no spoil. But if you kill one of animals and no more icebox, you cannot keep inside the house without icebox. So we have to share to anybody who wanted.

CP: Was there anyone there that had iceboxes?

MA: No, no, no.

CP: Nobody?

MA: No.

CP: You didn't have any electricity, then?

MA: No, no more electric. We use da kine lantern.

CP: What kind of lantern was it? Do you remember?

MA: We use the kerosene.

CP: How did you get supplies like that? Kerosene . . .

MA: We used to buy inside the store. The kerosene.

CP: How far was the store?

MA: About two miles away from the place where we living.

WN: So, you said that you helped your mother with the sewing, the clothes. Anything else, did you help--anything else around the house?

MA: I forget already. (Chuckles)

WN: Cooking?

MA: Yeah, yeah. We cook. We go find the fish by the river for us to eat. To add with the vegetable. It's kind of hard life. Lucky I came to Hawai'i. I find it little bit better living.

CP: How about baking? Did your mother used to bake things, too?

MA: They used to bake, but only Filipino cake. But only for ourself.

WN: Was there any way that your family could make money?

MA: No, no more. Yeah. We only work our own land for make our living.

CP: How is it that you could get money to buy things? How did you earn? You go to the store to buy certain things, yeah?

MA: Oh, sometime, if you want to sell something, somebody buy, and then you can get the money and the something. If not, you exchange with somebody. If they get the kerosene and you give the rice, would be okay, too. Yeah, the exchange. If you don't have enough money to buy, you give what you get and the person give you what you like, too.

CP: Could you do that at the store? Could you bring rice to the store and then they give you something back?

MA: Yeah, because the store, they cannot go farm the. . . . They cannot plant rice, eh? They always stay inside the store.

WN: You know, the land that your father---that you had the farm on, did you own the land?

MA: Yes. Just enough for we live in the whole year. Sometime, no enough. If good weather and the crop is good, we get plenty. But if the weather is no good, the crop all very poor. We cannot get nothing.

CP: Do you remember certain years, maybe, were hard because of the weather? Hard for you to eat and survive?

MA: In the month of June and July in the Philippine Islands, sometime get the storm. Sometime get. And sometime, all destroyed, all the one we plant. So, if no storm and good weather, you get good. We get plenty things for eat from that crop, the one we plant.

CP: And if there's a storm, then what? What would you do?

MA: Kind of hard life. You just borrow and borrow, eh? Everybody borrow [from] each other.

CP: So I guess you try and save a lot if you have a good season?

MA: Yeah, that's what we do, yeah.

CP: Try and save.

MA: See what we saved. What we can eat when bad weather time.

CP: What kind of things did you do for fun in your town? Did you have any social activities or. . . .

MA: Oh, sometime, all the girls, they get the society, eh? Sometime we go in one group. Sometime we get the dance. We go picnic, like that. All we want to do, we do, when we was single.

CP: Do you remember, if you had a dance, what would you do? Would there be music?

MA: Oh, we try to---our friend, they know how to play music, so they call us to go practice dance. Sometime we go someplace and all the whole group. Somebody invite us to go. And we get all free for that one. We get free food there and we get free transportation.

CP: What kind of transportation?

MA: Truck. Small truck.

CP: They take you out to another town?

MA: Yes.

CP: Oh, that's nice. When you had dances and stuff, would be folk dance? Like <u>tinikling</u> or. . . .

MA: Yes, yes.

CP: Tinikling, yeah?

MA: Filipino dancing, yeah.

CP: And you had musicians in your town who played?

MA: Yeah, yeah. Yes.

CP: And any kind of sports?

MA: The boys, they get the baseball. Football, too. But not like in Hawai'i. They making money in Hawai'i because you have to pay when you go see, eh? Philippine Island, no. You no have to pay when you go see. The baseball and the football.

CP: Did your family have only---no car, no . . .

MA: No, we don't have car.

CP: Any wagon or. . . .

MA: No, no more. No wagon.

CP: Anybody else in your town have cars or wagons?

MA: Well, the one who get the car, only the companies. They get the company for transportation only. Because people, they cannot buy. Too expensive, the car. So we used to walk. Even how many miles, we walk. Hawai'i, even only half mile, you use the car. But Philippine Islands, I tell you, kind of hard living. Have to walk.

CP: What kind of land was it? Was it flat?

MA: Flat, yeah.

CP: But you said you go to the mountains, too.

MA: No, some---by the mountain, they go get the roof for the houses [i.e., the grass]. But the place where we plant, the land, it kinda level.

CP: And was there water around or river . . .

MA: We take the water inside by the river. And we get the ditch for the water for go down and supply the water to the field.

CP: Drinking water, too?

MA: No, the drinking water, we have to make the well, protect for the drinking water. You cannot drink any kind.

CP: You make a well to collect rainwater or. . . .

MA: To collect underneath the ground. Because if you take the water from the river, sometime, funny kind, the taste. And if the water inside the well, the well is kind of deep for you to take the water. And you use the bucket for take the water inside.

CP: When you wash clothes, like that, do you wash in the river or you. . . .

MA: River. The river. And dry the clothes, too, by the river, because they got the stone, eh? All the stone all clean and flat. So just put your clothes on the stone. In about two, three hour, the clothes dry already.

CP: When you cook, what did you use to cook? You cook inside the house or outside?

MA: No, we get separate, the kitchen and the house. So we use the fire. We get the stove but they make the stove with the clay. They use the clay for the stove for cook the food. You can put the pot on. Then you put the wood inside and then burn 'em.

CP: Oh, I see. The stove is . . .

MA: The stove get three round to hold the pot. But it's kind of low for you to put the stick for burn.

CP: So you can burn the wood but the clay won't burn?

MA: Yeah, no burn. Just like clay, but mud. They get some kind of mud for make that kind stove. No burn.

CP: Did you have to make the stove yourself, too, or somebody make it for . . .

MA: No. Somebody gotta make. But if you cook outside, you only use the stone. You pile the stone and put the iron on it, and then you can put the wire and put the pot on. But in the house, you cannot do that because maybe the house going burn.

CP: When you left, how was it that you left Ilocos Norte? You said you came with your sister, yeah?

MA: Yes, yes.

CP: And [her] husband?

MA: Yeah.

CP: How did they get the chance to come here?

MA: My sister['s] husband, he was in Hawai'i. Then he went back [to the Philippines]. He liked to come back [to] Hawai'i, so I came with them.

CP: They were married first?

MA: Yes, they was married first. Then after they got married, he came to Hawai'i [for] about three years. After three years, he came back. So I told them, "I like to come with you folks to come and find little bit better living than over here." So, they tell me okay. So I came with them.

WN: Before you came, did you have any work? Did you have a job?

MA: No, no more. No job. Before I came here.

CP: How was it that you were allowed to come with them? Did you have to pay?

MA: I pay my transportation for the steamer. About $199, I think.

CP: Where did you get the money from?

MA: I sold my father's land so I can come to Hawai'i.

CP: You sold your father's land?

MA: Land, yeah. Well, one of the piece of the land, I sold 'em so I can come to Hawai'i. When I reach to Hawai'i, I send 'em back the money for them so they can take back the land.

WN: Was your father---did he allow you to do that?

MA: Yes, yes. He (said), "Okay, if you want to go, you go. If you want to sell one piece of the land, you can sell to somebody. But when you earn some money, please return back the money, the one you use for go Hawai'i." So, as soon as I reach here, I try to wash clothes, somebody's clothes. So they pay me dollar and a quarter [$1.25] in one month. So I got ten men for wash. So each month, I keep, and then I pay back to my father.

WN: How long did you have to wash clothes before you could send back money to your father?

MA: (Laughs) I think about one year. Because four weeks, they pay me only one dollar quarter [per man]. One dollar quarter a month, they pay me for the laundry before. Kinda hard. (Chuckles)

WN: How many times a [month] did you wash clothes for one man?

MA: Four times.

CP: Oh, and they only pay you dollar twenty-five a month?

MA: Dollar twenty-five. Sometime, they cannot pay yet. Every time, balance, balance, balance. I say, "Okay. When you get money, then you pay me back." I told them.

CP: When you moved here, where did you live first?

MA: I lived in Kōloa, New Mill [Camp] side.

CP: And you lived with your sister and her husband?

MA: Yeah. And then, when he (MA points to her husband, Vicente Amoroso) saw me, then he tell me he wanted to marry me, so we wen get married together.

CP: You met him in [New] Mill Camp?

MA: Yeah.

WN: How did you meet?

MA: No, us neighbor. Us neighbor, so. He tell me to wash his clothes, so I wash his clothes.

(Laughter)

MA: And then, how many month, and then we talk, and then we got married. So I am the mother of five children. When about they are little bit big, then I start to go find job. That was the story of my living.

CP: When you first came [in 1930], how did you like it here?

MA: Well, the beginning, sometime, I was so lonesome, because us no more neighbor. Everybody working. So, daytime, only me and my sister stay home. All the men go work. So, kind of hard because sometime we scared because us, new eh, in Hawai'i. So after that, how many month, then we got some friend to come around and talk to us.

CP: Not too many other Filipino women, huh?

MA: No, not too much.

CP: Were you afraid?

MA: Yeah, sometime, I afraid before. Because you know when not too much ladies, that's what they tell every time, get koboy, eh, before? Long time ago. That's why, we scared. Even though you no like go, I hear the man carry you and take away from the husband before.

CP: So, you were afraid of that?

MA: Yeah. That's why I was afraid.

CP: Your sister, too, yeah?

MA: Yeah.

CP: Did you speak any English at all when you came?

MA: Only little bit. Because I [had] only second grade [education].

CP: Your sister could speak little bit?

MA: Yeah, she can speak little bit.

CP: Did your sister do any work, too? Laundry or. . . .

MA: Yes. Her and I do the same man--same house.

WN: So, when you do laundry, what did you have to do?

MA: Oh, we get the brush, we scrub the clothes. We put the clothes on the cement and we scrub 'em. No washing machine. You have to boil the clothes, too, to take out all the dirt. Then you hit 'em with a stick so the mud come out from the clothes.

CP: Did you have big pots to boil the clothes?

MA: Yeah, we get the big barrel.

WN: And then you use soap, too?

MA: Yeah, we use soap. We put the soap inside the boiling water, and then after that, you put the clothes inside. You boil the clothes about half an hour. And then, you take 'em out, and then you hit 'em with the stick. If not, you cannot take out all, you have to use the brush. But you got to lay [the clothes] on the floor to brush the clothes. Kinda hard.

WN: And you have to rinse, too?

MA: Yeah, yeah. We have to rinse. We get the big box for rinse all the clothes. And then we hang up on the line.

WN: Did you iron, too?

MA: Yeah. We have to iron, too.

WN: What kind iron did you use?

MA: We get the charcoal iron before. The beginning, Kōloa no more electric before. But when we stay New Mill, we use the electric iron.

WN: Oh, yeah? Oh.

MA: Yeah. Because in the mill, they got the light [i.e., electricity] when we came. Only Kōloa town no more light. All dark. That's why, Kōloa town no more icebox, too, because no more light.

WN: But New Mill had icebox?

MA: Yeah, get. New Mill get icebox.

WN: So, good then, New Mill.

MA: Because get the mill, eh? And all free, the electric in the house. We get free house, we get free light, free water, free kerosene to cook our food. But only dollar a day, they got paid.

WN: So, you did laundry for ten men, ten Filipino men, and they paid you dollar quarter each, eh? So, actually, you were making more money than the field workers, then? [WN made an error in calculation. MA received $1.25 per month per man, which came out to $12.50 per month. Field workers received a dollar a day, or about $25.00 a month.]

MA: Well, maybe sometime, tie-tie, tie-tie, yeah. But sometime, they cannot pay you right away. They have to balance. So how many month they can pay? They can go dance but they cannot pay [for] the laundry. That's why, the people tell, "The dancing, can pay, but the laundry no can pay," they tell before. Oh, the other Japanese [women who also washed clothes for bachelors], too, they talk like that. "What's a-matter? The dancing can pay. Wash clothes, no can pay," they tell. So sometime, they shame, the Filipino, the one they wash.

CP: I'm going to switch this tape over right now.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

WN: After you iron, and then what did you do?

MA: Pile up, and then go deliver the clothes.

CP: Oh, you had to deliver the clothes, too?

MA: Yeah. You have to carry the clothes, and then you deliver the clean one, and then you take [i.e., pick up] the dirty one. And then, you wash again. Every Friday afternoon, we used to deliver the clothes. And then, Saturday, Sunday, we wash the clothes. And during the week, we used to iron the clothes. (Chuckles) Kinda hard.

WN: So, was mostly working clothes?

MA: All working clothes, how dirty. Plenty mud. But the clothes, the one use for go out, for go someplace, it's easier to clean than the work clothes.

CP: When did you have your first baby? First child? Do you remember?

MA: I think 1931, I think.

CP: The next year after you came already. . . . How did you have the baby? Did the doctor come to your house or midwife?

MA: Oh, midwife come inside the house. The hospital too far. So you have to hire some Japanese lady to come and help you. She (came) every day. She come and wash the baby. Sometimes she cook your food. Because all the men, they go work. So, the midwife have to help you so how many days.

CP: Then you hire the midwife to come?

MA: Yes, yes. You call. Somebody go tell, and then the midwife come here. Then every morning, she used to come.

CP: How much did you pay them?

MA: Maybe about [a one-time fee of] ten dollars, I think. And so how many days, she come and help you. Then after that, the nurse come, too. They get the nurse to come around, too. But only checkup.

CP: That was the company nurse?

MA: Yeah, the plantation nurse. They used to come and checkup.

CP: Your first baby was a boy or a girl?

MA: Boy. Two boys, and then the number three is girl. The number four, girl. The last one, girl again.

CP: After your children were born, did you continue doing laundry for other people, too?

MA: No. After that, I intend to go find job outside. So, summertime, I used to work in the [Kaua'i] Pineapple [Company] cannery. Sometime, about eight hour or nine hour a day. They pay us forty cents an hour. Kinda hard, the [Ginaca] machine. You know, if you cannot keep up [with] the machine for trim the pineapple, sometime the <u>luna</u> shove the pineapple on your place. Because all pile up. The machine too fast. You have to make your hand fast, too, to trim the pineapple. And so how many years? How many summer I work there? I change my mind to go find another job. So, I went to Chang [Fook Kee] restaurant and bakery.

CP: How long was it that you worked at the pineapple cannery? What year did you start working there?

MA: Before the war.

CP: Before the war?

MA: Yeah.

CP: How old was your oldest child then?

MA: The oldest? I get my komadre take care the baby [i.e., MA's youngest child] when I go work summertime.

CP: Who take care of the baby?

MA: The godmother of the baby. So, when I go work and I get the pay, I pay her, too. I work summertime maybe about two, three years, summertime. And then I went to Chang Fook [Kee].

WN: The cannery was in Lāwa'i, yeah?

MA: Yeah, in Lāwa'i.

WN: How did you get from New Mill to Lāwa'i?

MA: Oh, get the company come pick us for go work, morning and afternoon.

WN: You mean, on a truck?

MA: Yeah, on a truck. They come pick us. And then, when time to go home, they bring home the one who finish work and then they take the second shift. It's two shift, before. Night shift and day shift.

CP: They pick you up in one spot, everybody?

MA: Yeah. Only one place.

CP: And you said you worked there for three summers?

MA: About that. About two, three summers, I was working there.

WN: You were only trimming? Anything else? Packing?

MA: I pick all the. . . . I pick eye [off the pineapples]. I go pick eye. The machine all go around and then they pick up all the no good up from the pineapple. But that kind, you make your head dizzy because the machine go like this, it spin around. But if you trim, little bit better, too. But only one thing, when the pineapple pile up on your side, sometime the luna shove the pineapple on your place, on your side. He say, "You work for your money," he tell. They tell us like that before. "Work for your money."

WN: How many Ginaca machines had?

MA: I think about three, I think. Ginaca, the one I tell you. Three, I think, was that.

WN: How many trimmers had?

MA: Plenty. Plenty trimmers. So how many line of table. About, I think, fifty people. Packing and trimming.

CP: After that, you went to work at Chang Fook Kee?

MA: Chang Fook Kee.

CP: What year was that? Do you remember?

MA: Wartime [World War II]. Wartime, I was working there.

CP: And what did you do there?

MA: We used to cook and serve if somebody come in. Somebody come give the order. But when nobody come in, we used to help for the bakery. We used to make manjū, doughnut, buns. But usually, I fry the doughnut every day.

CP: By yourself?

MA: Yeah, yeah. Because the other ladies, they got different, their work.

WN: How did you get the job at Chang Fook Kee?

MA: I went to apply at them. When the boss see me, he tell me, "Okay. I need one lady for help inside here." So I was so happy because he took me to work over there.

CP: So, mostly, you were bakery helper, yeah?

MA: Yeah, yes.

CP: When you had to serve customers, what kind of customers did you get in the restaurant?

MA: All mostly soldier. Soldier and some. . . . Hardly outside people, only soldier. Marine, navy, and air force. They all mix up. Sometime, they all stay together, they not agree, eh? They fight. They throw all the chair, each other. Even you put the food on the table already, when they see each other, they fight. And then, they go away because the MP [military police] come pick them up, huh? So the food is still on the table. Nobody touch.

WN: How did you learn how to bake?

MA: I look the way how they do. So, little by little, and then I know how to roll the dough for make doughnut and manjū.

CP: Then the baked goods, plantation people bought the baked goods?

MA: Yes, plantation people and not plantation people, too. All around Kaua'i, I think, they used to come buy the manjū because they wanted, too. Chang Fook manjū and doughnuts too good, they tell. So, everybody come from different place. Kekaha, sometime they come get plenty. Kapa'a. They used to buy. And kind of cheap, too,

before. Only three for quarter, I think, the manjū. And the doughnut, ten cents, one, the doughnut. The bread, only twenty cents. Sometime we make bread; sometime we make sweet bread, too. But the sweet bread, it cost about fifty cents, one. But the regular bread, twenty cents.

CP: Every day you had to make doughnuts, yeah?

MA: Yeah, yes.

CP: How many did you make in a day?

MA: Oh, sometime, the doughnut, about 500, I think.

CP: And how about bread?

MA: The bread, sometime, one time, one week, we make the bread. But the manjū and the doughnut, mostly every day. Pie, doughnut, manjū.

CP: You fry the doughnut yourself, did you have to fry it in a big batch?

MA: Yeah, they get the big, big pot. Then I got the long stick for me to hold and put all the doughnut inside. Pile up inside the stick. And then, when you take out all the doughnut, you put on the pan straight so no smash. And then you put another [batch] inside the hot boil water [oil] again. Boil oil. [Later, MA said that she laid doughnuts down flat on a pan immediately after they were cooked.]

CP: Oil.

WN: So you put the whole stick inside?

MA: Yeah. Stick 'em like this.

CP: Wooden stick?

MA: Wood kind.

CP: So just like you have them all speared on top, yeah, the doughnuts?

MA: No, just like straight and then you got two stick. The other one hold and then you put the--in the hole, eh? You put like this. Then when kinda plenty, you put like this. And then, you take some more. And then you put. When the stick almost full, then you put inside the long pan. Ready to go sell. [In a later conversation, MA said that a stick was used to turn the doughnuts as they were being fried. Another stick was used to take the doughnuts out, one by one, after they were cooked.]

CP: Did you ever hurt yourself? Get burned or anything?

MA: No.

CP: Never?

MA: Nothing happen to me. Only one thing, hot.

CP: How many years you worked there?

MA: Eight years.

CP: Eight years? Oh, long time. And all the time doing the same thing?

MA: Yeah, same.

CP: And then, after that, where did you go?

MA: I went to. . . . One company opened a tuna factory in Nāwiliwili. So I went to apply. And then, they admit me to go work there.

CP: And what year was that? Do you remember? After the war, yeah?

MA: Yeah, after the war.

CP: Do you remember how long or what year it was?

MA: I think 1949 [or 1950], I think. But no last long.

CP: Oh, why was that?

MA: Because the company was broke so everybody stop working. About two years, I think.

WN: How come you left Chang Fook Kee?

MA: One of the family [members] wanted to work. So they tell me to stop and then, "You go collect unemployment money," they told me. So I collect. So how many weeks. And then, the unemployment tell me, "You go find another job because some job opening in Nāwiliwili side." So I went to apply. So it happened they bin take me to work there.

CP: By this time, your children are grown up already, yeah?

MA: Yes.

CP: And when you worked at the tuna factory, what did you do?

MA: We clean the fish. They steam the tuna, the whole fish, they put in a big basket. And then, we used to carry and put on the table, and we take out all the skin and the bone. And then, when we pau with the fish, the other guys, they take the fish and they make all filet. They clean, and then they cut, and then they can the tuna.

CP: So you clean the fish?

MA: We clean with hand. But we got glove.

CP: You use a knife with that?

MA: Yeah, we use the knife to trim all the bone and the blood.

CP: Did they bring the fish over to a table or something or. . . .

MA: We carry that fish, the steamed fish from the boiler. And then, we put, and then we clean. Put on the table.

CP: So the fish is still hot?

MA: No, no, not. Because they boil nighttime, and then we do the job in the morning. Whole day.

CP: And how many of you were doing that?

MA: Oh, about fifty guys, I think.

CP: Oh, plenty.

MA: Plenty guys. But so how many years, the company broke so everybody stop. And then, I bin go apply another side again. I went to Coco Palms Hotel, apply. I work there so how many years [two years]. And then, I stop again.

And then, in 1952, I bought my own business. I bought pool tables. Four tables. It cost me about $2,200.

WN: Where was the pool hall located?

MA: Right in front Kōloa Post Office.

WN: Oh, right across the street [from the present Kōloa Post Office]?

MA: Yeah, across the street.

CP: Who did you buy these tables from?

MA: I forget his family name already. They call (him) "Larry." So he went to the Mainland, and he told me to buy that place. About $2,200. "But only the pool tables," he say. "And the house, you have to pay rent, thirty-two dollars a month."

CP: So there was a pool hall over there already?

MA: Yeah, yeah. It's already, they using so how many years. But it happened he went to the Mainland. Because . . .

CP: This man, he was a local man?

MA: Yes, yes.

CP: Filipino?

MA: Yeah. Him and I [came from the] same place in the Philippines. That's how we know each other. Then he sold to me.

WN: So, already had the four tables in there. You just bought the tables?

MA: Yeah. I just go inside and work inside there.

CP: Was it a popular place already?

MA: Yes, popular place already, that place, yeah. Right [in the] heart of Koloa town.

CP: How much rent did you have to pay?

MA: Thirty-two dollars a month.

CP: Thirty-two dollars a month?

MA: Yeah.

WN: Mrs. Amoroso, what made you decide to go into your own business?

MA: Oh, I getting tired [of working for others] already, so I told my husband, "More better buy our own business already." So we do or no do, just the same. It's our own. Nobody, no more luna already, I told him. So, he work plantation; I work inside the billiard parlor. But ten cents a game. (Laughs) Ten cents a game.

CP: What time did you open?

MA: I open about ten o'clock in the morning. I close two o'clock in the night [2:00 a.m.].

CP: Oh, yeah? And you stay in the pool hall the whole time?

MA: Yeah. Only myself. But I bring my food inside there. Because nobody relieve me [if] I (go) home and eat.

CP: And was it always busy from ten o'clock in the morning?

MA: No, sometimes busy; sometimes no busy. Because those people who play, if they stay losing, they come hot, they no want to stop. They come hot. So I tell them, "Close the table already."

"No, no, no, no, no. You open until tomorrow." Some tell me open whole night, too, when they come hot. The one who play. They still losing.

CP: Was there lot of different kind, be all the different kind came? Japanese . . .

MA: Japanese, Portuguese, Haoles, all any kind nation, they come inside, yeah.

CP: Filipinos?

MA: Yes, Filipinos.

CP: Did they play for money? They play each other for money?

MA: No, no, no, no. But sometimes they play for soda water.

WN: So, they didn't have gambling in there?

MA: No, no more. No more gamble. Against the law. And if those boys don't have enough age, I told them to get away from here because, "You not supposed to come inside."

You know what they tell me? "Fuck you. Why no let us to come inside?" they tell. And I wild, too, eh? Because they tell me bad kind of word. Those boys' fathers, they used to come and wild me, too. Why I let the son go inside the pool hall? They blame me for them to be inside. But no, I got to take care my own business, too, because I no like if the policeman catch them, [I] have to close.

CP: How old did you have to be?

MA: Eighteen years old. Eighteen. But some fifteen-year-olds, they came, but "No. Please no come inside because no 'nough age." Then they swear [at] me.

WN: Did policemen come around . . .

MA: Yeah, they used to come around. That's why, I no want them to come inside. If they catch me, oh, this pool hall close up. They tell I no can do nothing already. Bumbai I lose my business.

CP: That's the only thing you had, yeah? Pool? No other kind of games inside?

MA: No, no.

CP: No pinball machine or, no?

MA: Oh, I got the pinball machines before. I got three pinball machines. But I don't know what happened. They collect all and they make us pay. What you call that now? They tell somebody they catch in the Mainland, that they was making money, so they make all, everybody, pay, the one who get pinball machine.

WN: Yeah. Oh, fine?

MA: Yeah. One pinball machine, they make us fine about fifty dollars. After that, no more already. No more pinball machine in Kaua'i.

CP: What did you do with yours? You give 'em to the police or you sold--what did you do with your pinball machines?

MA: The company come pick 'em up.

CP: Oh, I see.

WN: Shall we stop here?

END OF INTERVIEW

Tape No. 15-43-2-87

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Marcella Queypo Amoroso (MA)

June 25, 1987

Kōloa, Kaua'i

BY: Chris Planas (CP)

[NOTE: Also present at the interview is Vicente Amoroso (VA), MA's husband.]

CP: This is an interview with Marcella Amoroso on June 25, 1987 at her home in Kōloa and the interviewer is Chris Planas.

I think the last time when we stopped, we were talking about the pool hall, when you had started to take over the pool hall. What year was that? Do you remember?

MA: When I bought the pool hall was 1952.

CP: And you were saying that you had to buy the pool tables?

MA: Yeah, I bought the pool tables, four. It cost me about $2,200.

CP: Who was running the pool hall before that?

MA: It was Larry. . . . I forget already. (MA asks husband.)

VA: I don't know. I forget already.

CP: Filipino man?

MA: Yes.

CP: Did he own the pool tables that you bought?

MA: Yes. He owned the pool tables.

CP: And how much rent did you have to pay?

MA: Thirty-two dollars a month.

CP: What was it that made you want to go into this business?

MA: Oh, it's better for me because hard to work for somebody. And it's

hard to get up in the morning and go work. So, it's better for me to take my own business. So nobody boss me. I boss my own self when I work inside there.

CP: What did you do when you first started working in the pool hall?

MA: Somebody play the pool, this was the start. Somebody play pool. It's already inside the house, the pool tables.

CP: So was already established as a business?

MA: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

CP: Did you change it all when you started it? Did you change the business around or did you change the interior?

MA: No, I no change the---just same the way when I bought the pool tables.

CP: How is it that you found out about this?

MA: He is my townmate in the Philippines.

CP: Oh, townmate.

MA: Yeah.

CP: Did you used to go to this pool hall before was your own?

MA: No.

CP: Did he decide to quit the business or something?

MA: No. Something happened to him, so he have to go to the Mainland.

CP: But you don't know what it was that happened?

MA: No.

CP: Can you tell me what was the average day? What you did during your average day of work?

MA: Sometime I start in the morning. And if somebody play, I work two o'clock in the night, I stop.

CP: Oh, really? Did you have a daily schedule? Did you go to the pool hall every day at a certain time?

MA: No, anytime, I go.

CP: So you can go anytime you feel like?

MA: Oh, because my husband, sometime he stay. So he took over my place.

If my husband work night shift, when he wake up in the daytime, he can take my place.

CP: So, actually it wasn't like a regular thing where you went in every day then at the same time?

MA: No.

CP: You did different times?

MA: Yeah. Sometime eight o'clock, sometime nine o'clock because if I go too early, no more young boys go around yet. They came in the afternoon, the boys come play after school.

CP: So you, maybe, on an average, what time would you open up?

MA: Ten o'clock [a.m.]. Sometime, eleven o'clock.

CP: Did people come and play that early?

MA: No, they come to talk story sometime. They no more place to go, so they come talk story inside. So sometime, I open late, sometime eleven o'clock, sometime two o'clock.

CP: When you first opened the pool hall, did you have to clean up or sweep up?

MA: Oh, yeah. We got to clean 'em up.

CP: What did you do?

MA: You got to sweep all the dirt all by the wall. And all the pool table get plenty dirt, so we have to use the vacuum.

CP: You vacuumed the top of the felt?

MA: Yeah, the felt. Pool table.

CP: Did you have cue sticks?

MA: Yes, we got cue sticks.

CP: And chalk, too?

MA: Yeah, we got chalk. We got powder. And I <u>wen</u> get the rack when I bought the pool table.

CP: Did you have to keep maintaining those or do you have to buy new ones every so often?

MA: Well, if I run short, I have to go Honolulu and buy. I go to Theo H. Davies Company and bought all the supply for the pool table.

CP: Oh, I see. What kind of supplies did you buy?

MA: The cloth, put just the cloth. The rubber. You know, the rubber? You know, the pool table, by the side, they used to put the rubber and then they put the cloth so the ball can run. If kinda low, sometime the ball cannot hit good, so we have to change all the time.

CP: Underneath the cloth?

MA: Yeah, underneath the cloth.

CP: Oh, I see. What else did you used to buy?

MA: If I run short, the chalk or the cue and the powder and the cloth, and then, we have to buy again. Because sometimes the boys, they play. If they play rough, sometime they broke the felt of the pool table. So, if you no change right away, nobody can play. They tell no good, the pool table, they tell. So, my husband used to fix all the pool table every time.

CP: Oh, your husband fixed it?

MA: Yeah. Somebody show him how to fix. One time he look, after that, he know how to fix every time already.

CP: So you said you would open in the morning from eleven, maybe ten, eleven o'clock?

MA: Yeah.

CP: Stay open until. . . .

MA: Until sometime two o'clock [a.m.] if somebody stay.

CP: There was no admission to come into the pool hall?

MA: Have to get eighteen year old.

CP: And how much did you charge?

MA: Ten cents a game. Sometime, five cents a game.

CP: How come sometimes five cents?

MA: If they use the. . . . I forget the game already. If they play the rotation, they use all the balls, so I charge ten cents. But if they play the eight ball, you cannot use all the balls, so I charge five cents the eight ball. So the rotation, I charge ten cents.

CP: What kind of games were popular?

MA: Sometimes eight ball, rotation, and nine ball.

CP: Were there many bets made? Did they play for money?

MA: No, no, no, no. They only play the pool table. They no play for money. Against the law, play for money.

CP: Would your pool hall get very crowded at certain times of the day?

MA: No, no. Kinda slow.

CP: All during the time you ran it was slow?

MA: Slow, yeah. That's why, if somebody play, I have to work because slow, eh? The one who came, I got to respect them how to play.

CP: How many people would there be at the most?

MA: Play on the table?

CP: Yeah.

MA: Oh, rotation, sometime four guys. If eight ball, two guys. Nine ball, two guys.

CP: How many people would be at the peak time? How many people would be in your pool hall when it's busy?

MA: I think about only ten people when busy time.

CP: Yeah. Not too many then, huh?

MA: No. Some people only come look, only sit down on the bench and watch how the people play.

CP: You were saying that some people start coming after school?

MA: Yeah, the kids.

CP: But they weren't all eighteen were they?

MA: No, the one come from. . . . No, some, some [were already] eighteen years old.

CP: Some, eighteen?

MA: Some. Because people work by the mill, too. They work for the plantation.

CP: So maybe their shift end early, then they come to the pool hall?

MA: Mm hmm, yeah.

CP: What kind of people came?

MA: All mix up. Filipino, Japanese, Portuguese, Haoles. Any kind nation come in. So long get eighteen year old, they can come inside the pool hall.

CP: Did you have any trouble? Any fights in the pool hall?

MA: No, no, no. No more fight. Not one.

CP: Oh, that's good.

MA: Because every time, sometime, policeman come around, eh?

CP: How often would the police come around?

MA: Sometime. . . . They pass by. And if something wrong, they can see, eh? They can look. Not one time. Because all the boys was good, the boys.

CP: Was it mostly Kōloa Plantation people . . .

MA: Yeah.

CP: . . . or people come from outside?

MA: Some from the other side, too.

CP: Which other side?

MA: Some, the other plantations. If Kōloa guy got friend and then he go with them to play. Play for fun. So, better to play than go anyplace, they tell me, eh? So, sometime they stay there about only two, three hour and play. Then after that, they go home.

CP: How much money would you make from the pool hall in a month?

MA: In a month? Sometime fifty dollar.

CP: Oh, really? Not too much.

MA: Sometime no more fifty dollar, too. Then if I pay the house rent, and the water, and the light, it's kinda hard, too. I have no money come in.

CP: Oh, so, actually, would you say you made a profit very often?

MA: No. No more too much profit.

CP: But you ran this pool hall for kinda long, huh [1952-78]?

MA: Kinda long. But no place to put. Nobody like buy. Because before, when I get the pool hall, they get the--had in Līhu'e--they get the bowling alley. That's where the boys and the men, they used to go play inside there, in Līhu'e. And so, after that, all pool table,

all dead already.

CP: Oh, what year was that?

MA: I forget already.

CP: But you're saying when they installed the bowling alley . . .

MA: Yeah, when installing the bowling alley, they used to go there already and play. They no care [for] the pool table, the young kids, young people.

CP: You keep the pool hall going, though, 'cause you couldn't sell the pool tables?

MA: Yeah, yeah.

CP: Was there certain times of the year that the pool hall was more crowded than other times?

MA: Sometime crowd, sometime no crowd.

CP: Like for instance, would it be crowded during summertime or. . . .

MA: Summertime, sometime the boys all come back, the one goes. . . . When no school or middle of school, sometime they come play [In a later conversation, MA said that she would only let those in who were already eighteen. These may have included high school students or summer workers from Honolulu.] After they go. Sometime they got job. When they finish work, and then they used to come play.

CP: Did you have any kind of special activities at the pool hall? Any tournament or. . . .

MA: No, no more. No more.

CP: When did you finally stop at the pool hall? When did you finally quit the business?

MA: Oh, I quit the business in 1978.

CP: Were you losing money or were you . . .

MA: No, the trouble is, when the new man come lease the pool table place, he charge me $125 a month. So I got hard time. I try. I wen try so hard how many month. So the next year, he told me again, raise up for $200 in a month. So I quit already because I only work for him. Only pay the house [rent] if I no give up for the pool hall.

CP: Who was that?

MA: Oh, a Filipino.

CP: Do you remember his name?

MA: Federico Bristol.

CP: What did you do then? Did you sell the pool tables?

MA: No, I throw away. I gave to the one who like it.

CP: You didn't try to sell?

MA: No. I was so mad. That's why, the one who like take, they can take home and then they play. They play by their place.

CP: But that wasn't too long ago. Nine years ago.

MA: Yeah.

CP: You were saying that your husband helped you run the pool hall?

MA: Yeah. When he worked nights, he come relieve me little while. And then, he go back work again in the night.

CP: How did you keep up with your daily chores and stuff while you were running the pool hall? Were your children grown by this time?

MA: Oh, all my children, they no stay already.

CP: Oh, I see. So you don't have to worry too much, laundry or cooking.

MA: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Sometime, I only bring soda water and Fritos enough only to eat lunchtime. Was nothing to do, only sit down.

CP: After you sold the pool hall, then what did you do?

MA: I was sick already. I cannot work.

CP: What was wrong?

MA: Oh, my leg got arthritis, the two, both of my knee. So I cannot work. I was using the walker before. But now, thanks to God, I use only the cane for walk.

CP: Did the arthritis start while you were working in the pool hall?

MA: I got already when I stay inside the pool hall. But I got hard time. Because my leg aching and I have to rack all the ball when somebody play.

CP: Oh, you have to rack the ball?

MA: Yeah, I rack the ball. I have to stand up.

CP: And then, you collect the money every time you rack the balls, too?

MA: Yeah, yeah.

CP: Did you have arthritis before when you were working at these other jobs?

MA: No.

CP: Oh, just started when you were working pool hall?

MA: Yes.

CP: Where did you live during this time? From 1954 . . .

MA: Just below the pool hall. About fifty yards, I think. Just near. Only two house away from the pool hall. My house, the one I live before. So, I just go and come back, go and come back, because near. I no need to use the car for go. So when I go home nighttime, I no scared because only two house away from my house, the pool hall. And right by the road, too. Main highway [i.e., Kōloa Road].

CP: When did you start living there?

MA: I think we was living right by the mill [i.e., New Mill Camp]. And then, they tell us to move because they broke all the houses. So, I think 1955, I think. No, '52. . . . I was living in New Mill for four years and then we move house. So, it's not too bad because close to my business.

CP: Is that the reason that you moved there?

MA: No, we don't have house in New Mill because they broke 'em down. So they tell us to go move [from] that house. But that house, sometime I want because you know plantation house, you have to go out and use the toilet. When the rainy day, you have to go if you need the toilet. Not like here now. Inside the house. That's the reason why we bought the home, too. Because I got hard time in the night for go to the toilet.

CP: In the old houses in [New] Mill Camp, they had outside toilets?

MA: Yeah. All outside toilet.

CP: And this one over here?

MA: Box toilet.

CP: Box toilet? What is that?

MA: (Chuckles) The water no run. They make the house and then they put the box. And then, you go [to the toilet] inside there. You know, some plantation house before, they no care, eh? That's why, we try to buy our own home. Hard to use the toilet in the night.

CP: Since you retired, you just stay home?

MA: Yeah, only stay home.

CP: Did you try to work anywhere else afterwards? Any other jobs?

MA: No, no. I cannot stand up before when I retire from the pool hall.

CP: After you quit the pool hall, what happened to that place?

MA: Oh, collapse, the house. Because old, the house, too. When get little bit strong wind, bin collapse the house. All fall down.

CP: When was that about? Few years after or. . . .

MA: Yeah, two years after I quit that place, and then the house knocked down.

CP: So they built something else then?

MA: No, no more. They stay using for the place for the one who eat. By the [Koloa] Ice House, they put one table inside there. I don't know how many table they put inside there for the people who eat.

CP: How do you feel about moving to Hawai'i? Do you feel you made a good decision to move to Hawai'i from Philippines?

MA: I don't want to go Philippine Islands already. I'm a citizen in Hawai'i now. I cannot go because I cannot walk. If I go, I think I stay there about only one month. Only for visit. But I get only one sister now in the Philippines.

CP: Do you keep in touch with her?

MA: Yeah, yeah. But she still sick, just like me, too.

CP: You tried visit her?

MA: No, I never go back since when I came to Hawai'i.

CP: Mr. Amoroso no go back, too?

MA: No, he no go back, too.

CP: How about your children? Any of your children go?

MA: Oh, [two of] my children went up there. Because my son, the first one, he was a Air Force radio technician. And he went to visit in my place and in Mindanao. Because my husband's family stay in Mindanao. So when he stationed in Manila, Clark Field, he used to go visit them. But my other girl, when the husband was mayor of Kaua'i [Eduardo Malapit], they told them to go visit in Manila. So they went to Philippine Islands, husband and wife, visit the place

where we was born. I don't know if that one free for go or they pay the transportation. Because they like them to go see [Ferdinand] Marcos, the people in Hawai'i. The people in Hawai'i, they like them to go see Mr. Marcos in Manila. But I don't know if they see Marcos or not because they went to [Ilocos] Norte. They went in Bangui.

CP: You think you were better coming over here? Better life?

MA: Better life Hawai'i than Philippine Islands. As I tell you before, I get bamboo house. That's why, better Hawai'i than Philippine Islands. And Hawai'i is no more trouble, too. Quiet place.

CP: What do you think about the way it's changing now over here? Changing, more tourists coming in, yeah?

MA: Oh, yeah. Too much traffic already in Hawai'i.

CP: You think it's bad, no good?

MA: I don't know if bad or no good. Because I cannot go around and see the island and see all the tourists. I only stay home. Only I go someplace if my husband bring me to the hospital and inside the store, that's all. But over here, Kōloa, big change already. Because since they get the new stores, down Kōloa place, the one they call "Plantation Store," [MA probably means Old Kōloa Town] start to get plenty tourists come in. And nighttime, plenty lights, too. They tell me that they get one tree that about 100 years [old] already. They put the electric lights on the tree.

CP: Oh, really?

MA: Yeah. I believe that because when I came to Hawai'i, that one, get already, the tree. Big already when we used to reach in Kōloa town.

CP: Which tree is that? The one by the Big Save?

MA: No, no. You know, when you go down, by, you know, Sueoka Store [MA probably is referring to the monkeypod tree fronting the old Yamamoto Store]? Get the big tree. You hit when you come from Līhu'e. And this the one they call 100 years.

CP: Oh, 100 years?

MA: Hundred years, they tell. So, now, sometime, we go get the boy [i.e., grandson], go school. Too much traffic, the road. Hard to go inside the store because the cars all [go] in and out. [The tourists] go Līhu'e, they go Po'ipū. That's why, hard for us to go inside the stores. Before, when no more that stores, quiet, but Kaua'i. But since get that kind store, too many tourists come in. Sometime, I see them, they [walk] up and down. They get ice cream or hot dog. They stay walking, they stay eating, all the tourists. That's why, now, the whole Kōloa just like city already, they tell.

You travel and you pass there, you can see all the buildings, all the lights. Especially nighttime.

CP: Kōloa wasn't like that before?

MA: No, no, no, no, no.

CP: No lights . . .

MA: No more light. No more light before.

CP: When you ran the pool hall, were you the only place that was open at night?

MA: Yeah. And so, sometime, the policeman, "You, lucky that you stay. Get light in Kōloa. If not, all dark already," that time. (Chuckles) The policeman told me. So when I closed. . . . Because sometimes twelve o'clock [midnight], there not light already. All blackout. So when I get the pool hall, I make ready all the pool table, make ready to cover before the other guy finish for play. So when they finish, I go home and run away because no more light for me to look my way to go home.

CP: Did they have streetlights in those days?

MA: Before, no more streetlight. Only until twelve o'clock. But now, day and night, open. That's why, Kōloa, bright already, nighttime. And now, the store, I think twenty-four hour already, they open the store. Especially Big Save.

CP: Yeah. Big Save.

MA: Yeah, Big Save [is open] twenty-four hours. I look the notice, yeah?

CP: Lot of changes.

MA: Yeah.

END OF INTERVIEW

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VOLUME I

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